; (e) Steps., taken *to* improve the coal quality include the following :

*(i)* Expediting development of on- going projects and openng of new mines for production of coal-grades required for steel etc.

(ii) Setting up of coal handling arrangements for supply of uniform quality of coal for power and other industries. .

(iii) Modification and modernisation of existing coking coal washeries. • -

(iv) Setting up of new washeries for washing of coking coals for use of steel plants.

(v) Setting up of coal benefication projects for supply of beneficiated coal for some of the distant power stations located more than 1000 Kms from coalfields.

**Percentage increase in price, production and productivity of coal**

1856. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage increase in the prices of coal since the nationalisation of coal mines

(b) the percentage increase in the cost of production of coal during the above "period ;

(c) the percentage increase in the productivity of' coal during the above period ; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to increase the productivity of coal mining and specially the underground mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Available information regarding prices, costs and productivity in respect of Coal India Ltd., its predecessor companies is furnished below *'*.—

| | As on 1-4-1974 (A) | As on 31-12-1993 (B) | Increase (c) (C) | (C) as %of (A) (D) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Average Coal Price in Rs. per tonne | 44.73 | 382.00 | 337.27 | 754 |
| 2. Average Cost of Production in Rs. per tonne | 44.68 | 364.65 (Provisional) | 319.97 (Provisional) | 716.1 |
| 3. Productivity as output in tonnes per man shift. | 0.58 | 1.39 | 0.81 | 139.6 |

(d) Important stepes taken by Coal Companies to increase; productivity include :—

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastages. ...

(ii) Control on, increase in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme.

(iii) The concept of all men-all job is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) Systems and managerial improve ments to improve efficiency, "of operations tions.